

Duffy is recognized for this award due to her involvement and attributes in a number of areas; including training, physical fitness, emergency scene conduct, attitude, and riding time. During the Fall 1998, when the Department was acclimating four new employees and working to certify them for minimum staffing roles, Fire Fighter Duffy used a week of vacation time to assist with this essential activity. Additionally, she spent many hours assisting several new volunteer members of the Department with gaining their Fire Fighter I and II certification. Fire Fighter Duffy also sacrificed her regular compensation and free time to be part of the Department contingency that was deployed to Ormond Beach, Florida this past summer to assist with fighting wildland fires.

Police Officer of the Year: PFC Carl R. Pardiny: During 1998, K-9 Officer, PFC Pardiny was recognized on numerous occasions for his outstanding performance of duty and initiatives in developing a more coordinated K-9 unit. An example of his outstanding performance involving a very difficult K-9 case occurred on March 9, 1998. This case was particularly difficult due to the rainy weather conditions, which affects the tracking ability, and the location of the suspect's hideaway. In order to have a more coordinated and effective K-9 unit, he drafted a canine operating procedure and developed a record system for documentation of all formal and informal canine training.

Dispatcher of the Year: Dispatcher Betty I. Powers: During 1998, Dispatcher Powers was commended more than once for her high level of professionalism and expertise while working in the Communication's Section. In particular, this recommendation was based on her professional handling of three serious felony incidents, two of which occurred almost simultaneously. Throughout all of these incidents, Dispatcher Powers was working alone and unassisted.

I am deeply impressed by the caliber of services that these fine public servants provide with admirable distinction. It takes a special calling and extraordinary commitment to choose public service as your life's work. I congratulate each award winner for their momentous recognition and extend my gratitude to you for your selfless dedication to the safety and well-being of the citizens of Fairfax City.

RECOGNITION OF HARMONY FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteer fire department of Harmony, Rhode Island on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

Founded in 1924, the Harmony Fire Department has provided an invaluable service to the citizens of the Harmony area. For three-quarters of a century, the dedicated volunteers have risked their lives for the sake of their neighbors. These men and women, the fire-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

fighters and emergency medical technicians of the force, donate their own time and resources for the community good. When the alarm bell rings, or, more appropriate to modern living, when the pager beeps, the volunteers leave the comfort of their homes and families, forgetting their own problems and concerns, with one singular goal in mind: helping others in need. Whether this service comes in the form of fighting fires, saving lives or providing comfort to the distressed, the Harmony volunteers always give to their fullest extent. In recent years, the demands on the department have steadily increased, straining the limited resources of the force. Nonetheless, the volunteers have risen to the occasion, redoubling their efforts and meeting new challenges.

Generally the goal of firefighters is to maintain the order and stability of the community around them. The Harmony force has taken its involvement one step further by providing a special service to the area. In preparation for the 75th anniversary celebration, the 28 volunteers have joined with other community members to compile a pictorial history of the Harmony Fire Department. By collecting pictures of the organization's past, the citizens of Harmony will be able to relive special moments and events in their collective history, thus fostering a better sense of community among them.

I laud the volunteering spirit of the Harmony Fire Department members as well as their understanding of community spirit. The bravery and steadfastness of the volunteers are greatly appreciated by both the residents of Harmony and myself. I congratulate them on 75 years of dedicated service and wish them many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on February 11, as a result of a hostage crisis that took place in my congressional district which required my direct intercession, I missed the final vote of the day, rollcall vote 21. After several hours of tense negotiations and through the fine work of the local, state and federal law enforcement officials, I am pleased to report that the hostages were all rescued without any loss of life or injury. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 21.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, earlier today, February 23, 1999, I missed rollcall votes 22 and 23. Today, I received a briefing from the Vice Commander of United States Southern Command that ran longer than expected. As a result, my departure from the Headquarters of the U.S. Southern Command in Miami was delayed. I unfortunately did not arrive back in Washington in time to vote on the two suspension bills, H.R. 193 and H.R. 171. Had I been present at the time the votes were called, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 22 and "yea" on rollcall 23.

February 24, 1999

THE IMPORTED FOOD SAFETY ACT OF 1999

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, almost a year ago a number of my colleagues and I introduced legislation aimed at improving the safety of the imported food consumed by Americans. The Congress failed to act. Regrettably, consumers continue to become sick, and in too many cases die, from eating contaminated food. These tragedies are avoidable. We have the means to arm FDA with sufficient authority and resources to protect our food supply. There are exciting advances in technology that may make tests for microbial and pesticide contamination easy to perform and affordable.

The bill we are introducing today is virtually the same as the one we introduced last year. To its critics, including many of my colleagues in the majority, I say, let us see your proposals. Let's do the people's business and improve the safety of our food supply. I challenge the majority to at least hold a hearing on the subject of food safety. Let's hear from consumers, public health experts, and all others with an interest in this matter. I am confident that none will dare defend the status quo.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) has reported that as many as 81 million cases of foodborne illness occur each year. Perhaps as many as 9,100 of these cases result in death. Under our current food import program there is virtually no preventive testing. Food shows up on the dock. Less than one percent of fresh fruit and vegetable are tested. The tests take a week or more to yield results. In the meantime the food is long gone, by then consumed. Let me repeat that point. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) too often waits for consumers to get sick or die before it tries to determine whether the food supply contains pathogenic contaminants. The outrageous and wholly intolerable conclusion one must draw is that American consumers are being used as guinea pigs.

There are special problems with imports. FDA lacks authority and resources to "trace back" the source of foodborne illness beyond the border. Furthermore, imported food inspected by FDA fails to meet certain government health standards nearly three times more often than domestically produced food. Any preventive detection FDA might attempt would be futile, because FDA lacks adequate tests to detect pathogens on imported food in a timely manner. Finally, FDA cannot even account for what happens to imported fruits and vegetables that are adulterated.

The Imported Food Safety Act of 1999 is critically important from a public health standpoint. It is also consistent with the international trade obligations of the United States. The World Trade Organization's Agreement on the Applications of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures reaffirmed that health and safety considerations take priority over trade. Member countries may, for justifiable health and safety reasons, impose more stringent requirements on imported products such as food than they require of domestic goods. This legislation is consistent with this exception.

Imports now account for approximately 38 percent of all the fruit and 12 percent of all the vegetables Americans consume each year. The volume of food imported into the U.S. has almost doubled over the last 5 years, yet the frequency of FDA inspections has declined sharply during the same period of time. FDA acknowledges that it is "in danger of being overwhelmed by the volume of products reaching U.S. ports."

Even if FDA could perform more inspections, FDA does not have the tests it needs to detect *E. coli*, salmonella, and other pathogens in imported fruits and vegetables. As recently as 1997, all of the microbiological samples that FDA collected and tested were in response to foodborne illness. None were for preventive detection. There has been little improvement since then.

GAO has studied this situation and has concluded that the federal government cannot ensure that imported foods are safe. In response to this crisis, the President has said FDA needs increased resources, more authority, and improved research and technology. The Imported Food Safety Act of 1999 addresses each of these points. The legislation provides additional resources in the form of a modest user fee on imported foods, and a "Manhattan Project" to develop "real time" tests that yield results within 60 minutes to detect *E. coli*, salmonella, and other microbial and pesticide contaminants in food. Finally, the legislation gives FDA authority, comparable to that of the U.S. Department of Agriculture with respect to imported poultry and meat, to stop unsafe food at the border and to assure that its ultimate disposition is not America's dinner table.

I would also note that the FY 2000 budget for the President's food safety initiative contains a modest funding increase over previous funding levels. Even under the most optimistic funding and allocation scenarios, the amount requested is inadequate to meet the resources needed to ensure that Americans have healthy food on their dinner table.

A TRIBUTE FOR FORMER MICHIGAN ATTORNEY GENERAL FRANK KELLEY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, a distinguished public servant recently stepped down from a lifetime working on behalf of the people of Michigan. In fact, Mr. Speaker, when one considers the fact that Frank Kelley served 37 years as Michigan's attorney general, one might almost say it was two lifetimes worth of work, not one, that Kelley spent in his effort to bring economic and environmental justice to the lives of the working men and women of Michigan.

A Democrat, Frank Kelley served with five Michigan governors, Republicans George Romney, Bill Milliken and John Engler, and fellow Democrats John Swainson, who originally appointed Kelley to fill a vacancy, and Jim Blanchard, who gave him the nickname the Eternal General.

Let me quote from a Detroit Free Press editorial of December 27, which spotlighted the fighting spirit of Frank Kelley and summed up—if such a summation is really possible—the 37-year career of this law enforcement legend.

"Kelley likes to say that he was a consumer champion before anyone heard of Ralph Nader, and that he had an environmental division, 'when most people didn't know whether it was spelled with an e or an i.' He regularly went after Michigan utilities in rate-hike cases like a pit bull after sirloin.

"He was outraged by charities that pocketed more money than they spent on good works, by retailers whose price at the scanner didn't match the price on the shelf, and by all the quick-buck ways unscrupulous and uncaring promoters could scam the poor and the unwary.

"He understood that the small ways in which people are cheated, stifled, disappointed and betrayed add up to something big and corrosive. He knew that by protecting the common folk against such frauds, maybe you could keep people believing in the possibilities of justice and good government."

That is a powerful theme for a life's work, Mr. Speaker. We can glimpse in a few words a man who understood the deceptions that can be perpetrated on the elderly in their homes with fraudulent mailings or on housewives in grocery stores, and he claimed that consumer fraud cost Michigan residents more money than other crime.

Public service certainly isn't over for Frank Kelley. He has already joined a new law firm in Lansing, that of Kelley, Cawthorne and Ralls, and he has been appointed by Governor John Engler to a post on the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

This 103-year-old civic body oversees the park land and the historic attractions on Mackinac Island, which make up about 83 percent of the island. The commission also oversees Colonial Michilimackinac in nearby Mackinaw City and Historic Mill Creek near Cheboygan on the Lake Huron shore.

Frank Kelley's love for this beautiful island is made clear by the fact that he has already purchased his burial site there, right next to the burial site of the late Sen. Phil Hart and across the road from the grave of the late Gov. G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams.

But that's in the future as far as a re-energized Frank Kelley, fresh from heart bypass surgery, is concerned. Right now there is new work, new challenges, in fact, new careers.

Whatever he undertakes, it's certain the people of Michigan will benefit from his endeavors.

I am proud to call him a friend, a constituent, a mentor and—most of all—the "Eternal General."

AN UNCOMMON HERO

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, many individuals have been recognized for their courage

and valor during war time, but it is not often that individuals are remembered for their compassion and generosity under the same circumstances. As part of the ongoing celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, I rise today to honor just such a generous man. I am proud to be able to say that he is a constituent of mine, living in Provo, in the Third District of Utah which I represent.

United States Air Force Col. Gail S. Halvorsen was one of many who participated in the joint American and British effort to deliver relief to the people stranded in Berlin after World War II. In total, over 277,000 drops were made and 2.3 million tons of relief supplies were delivered. Col. Halvorsen's contribution, however, did more than feed empty stomachs. It fed empty souls as well.

One morning, (then) Lieutenant Halvorsen was talking with a group of children gathered to watch the planes take off near the Tempelhof Airport in West Berlin. When it was time for him to leave, he realized how long it must have been since these children had enjoyed something sweet, like a piece of gum or candy. He reached into his pocket and produced two sticks of gum, which he gave to the children. Soon Lieut. Halvorsen began dropping small bags of candy, for all the children, over Berlin, attached to white handkerchiefs designed to act as parachutes.

Soon, this small gesture was adopted by the military, and became known as Operation Little Vittles. Shortly thereafter, Lieut. Halvorsen appeared on television to promote the effort, and then thousands of candy donations poured into the program from all over America, as generous families gave to the cause. Col. Halvorsen's effort is universally recognized as one of the keys to the success of the Berlin Airlift, one of America's greatest humanitarian efforts.

Often we read the newspaper or watch the television and question if there are any heroes left; people we truly want to imitate. By honoring Col. Gail Halvorsen today, we are reminded that there surely are still heroes in our midst.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KING HUSSEIN IBN TALAL AL-HASHEM

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, King Hussein's death marks the passing of a truly visionary leader. His reasoned, thoughtful approach toward achieving Middle East peace inspired all of us. We Minnesotans are especially honored that the King received the best possible care in the world from our wonderful Mayo Medical Center. Our deepest sympathies to the family of the King, and all of the people of Jordan and the world.